

Bowling Green State University

ScholarWorks@BGSU

National Center for Family and Marriage
Research Family Profiles

Sociology

2012

FP-12-08 Who are Nonresident Fathers? Demographic Characteristics of Nonresident Fathers

Bart Stykes

Bowling Green State University, jstykes@bgsu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/ncfmr_family_profiles



Part of the [Family, Life Course, and Society Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Stykes, Bart, "FP-12-08 Who are Nonresident Fathers? Demographic Characteristics of Nonresident Fathers" (2012). *National Center for Family and Marriage Research Family Profiles*. 6.
https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/ncfmr_family_profiles/6

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Sociology at ScholarWorks@BGSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in National Center for Family and Marriage Research Family Profiles by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@BGSU.

Who are Nonresident Fathers?

Demographic Characteristics of Nonresident Fathers

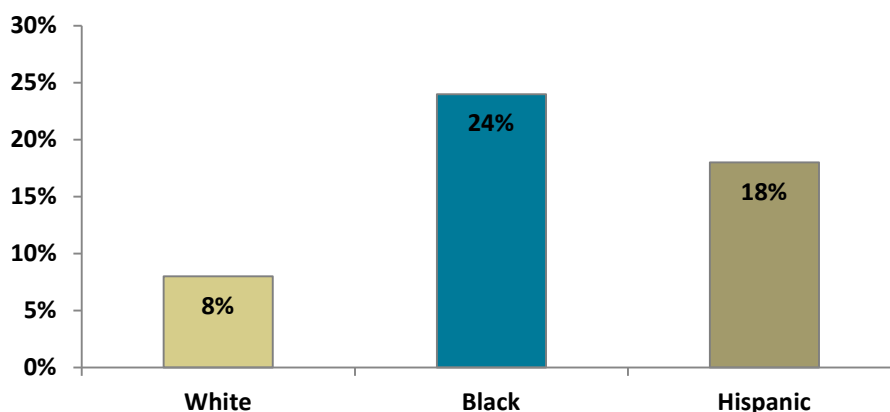
Approximately 27% of fathers report having at least one biological, nonresident child 18 or younger, according to estimates from the most recent round (2006-2010) of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), a nationally representative survey of men and women aged 15-44.

This profile presents a demographic portrait of nonresident fatherhood by describing the characteristics of nonresident fathers (15-44). Supplemental comparisons of nonresident fathers versus other men (15-44) without a nonresident child are also discussed. While this profile primarily focuses on the characteristics of nonresident fathers, a previous family profile “Nonresident Father Visitation” (FP-12-02) examines visitation across the demographic characteristics discussed in this profile.

Race/Ethnicity and Nonresident Fatherhood

- Black men are significantly more likely than any other racial/ethnic group to be nonresident fathers.
- The greatest difference in the prevalence of nonresident fatherhood is between Black and White men. Twenty-four percent of Black men report at least one nonresident child compared to 8% of White men.
- Hispanic men (18%) are also significantly more likely than White men (8%) to be nonresident fathers.
- Other analyses (not shown) demonstrate that nonresident fathers are disproportionately represented by minority men when compared to men who are not nonresident fathers. Among nonresident fathers, 23% are Black and 29% are Hispanic. In contrast, among men who are not nonresident fathers 12% are Black and 19% are Hispanic. Meanwhile, among nonresident fathers, 41% are White while 60% of men who are not nonresident fathers are White.

Figure 1. Percentage of Men (15-44) with a Nonresident Child by Race/Ethnicity

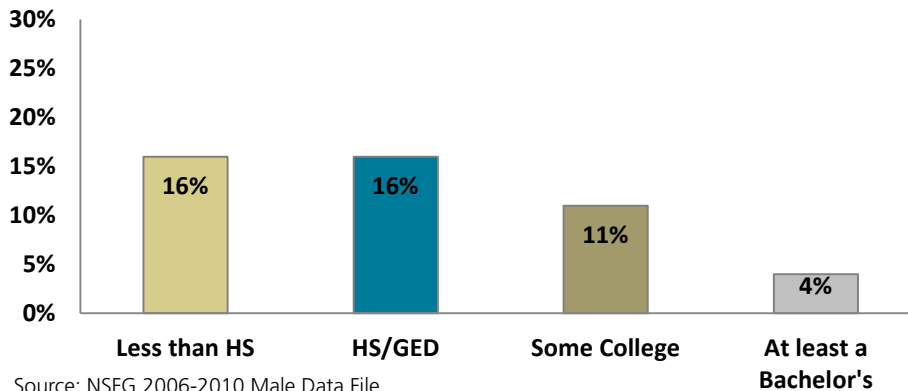


Source: NSFG 2006-2010 Male Data File
Significant Testing Conducted at $p < 0.05$

Educational Attainment and Nonresident Fatherhood

- Men reporting higher educational attainment (at least some college experience) are significantly less likely to report having a nonresident child. Only 4% of men with at least a bachelor's degree are nonresident fathers.
- Levels of nonresident fatherhood are similar among the least educated men. Sixteen percent of men with either less than a high school diploma or a high school diploma/GED are nonresident fathers.
- Additional analyses (not shown) demonstrate that nonresident fathers report significantly lower levels of educational attainment compared to men who are not nonresident fathers. Only 6% of nonresident fathers (compared to 21% of men who are not nonresident fathers) have a Bachelor's degree, whereas nearly two-fifths (37%) of nonresident fathers (compared to 29% of men without nonresident children) have less than a high school diploma.

Figure 2. Percentage of Men (15-44) with a Nonresident Child by Educational Attainment

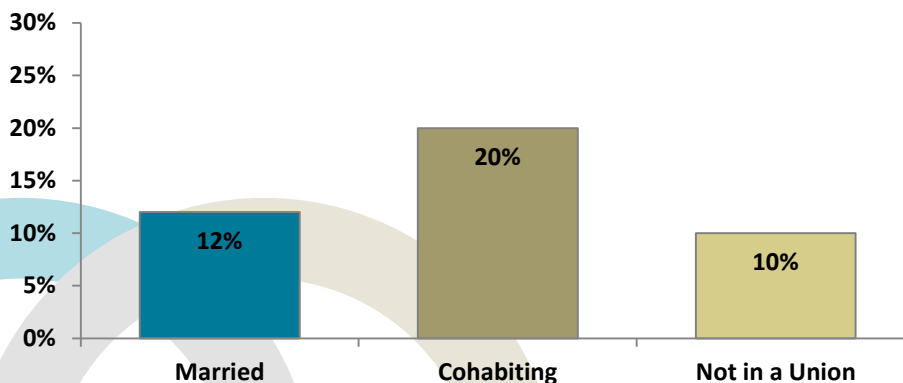


Source: NSFG 2006-2010 Male Data File
Significant Testing Conducted at $p < 0.05$

Current Relationship Status and Nonresident Fatherhood

- One-fifth of currently cohabiting men are nonresident fathers, making cohabiting men the most likely to be nonresident fathers.
- In contrast, only 10% of currently single men (those not living with a partner) and 12% of currently married men are nonresident fathers.
- Further analyses (not shown) illustrate that a significantly larger percentage of nonresident fathers are currently cohabiting (20%) compared to 12% of men without nonresident children. Two-fifths (41%) of nonresident fathers are currently single compared to half of men without nonresident children. Nearly two-fifths (38%) of both nonresident fathers and men without nonresident children are currently married.

Figure 3. Percentage of Men (15-44) with a Nonresident Child by Current Relationship Status



Source: NSFG 2006-2010 Male Data File
Significant Testing Conducted at $p < 0.05$

Suggested Citation:
Stykes, Bart (2012). Who are Nonresident Fathers? Demographic Characteristics of Nonresident Fathers (FP-12-08). National Center for Family & Marriage Research. Retrieved from http://ncfmr.bgsu.edu/pdf/family_profiles/file112052.pdf

This project was supported with a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, grant number 5 U01 AE000001-05. The opinions and conclusions expressed herein are solely those of the author(s) and should not be construed as representing the opinions or policy of any agency of the federal government.